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09/352,734	07/13/1999	JAMES OWEN	SLA0193	2607

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EXAMINER

DANG, DUY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed 6/5/03 has been entered and made of record.
2. Claims 1-9 and 11-15 are currently pending.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-9 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmid et al. (US Patent No. 5,659,164. Art of record IDS (paper #2) filed 10/18/1999).

Regarding claim 1, Schmid teaches a method for controlling scanning device using control sheets (i.e., the "MRI such as the bar-coded information" shown in figure 1 and mentioned in col. 4 lines 22-28 functions as the so called "controlling scanning device using control sheets"), comprising the steps of:

starting an imaging job having a multiple sheets (i.e., the "start scanner" shown at 14 of figure 3A; "place stack in feeder" shown in figure 2A; and "preparing a stack of successive sheets...digitizing scanner" mentioned in col. 3 lines 34-41.

Also refer to "beginning of the document scanning" mentioned in

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col. 3 lines 42-43), wherein at least one sheet is a control sheet (see "cover page 1" shown in figure 1);

locating (i.e., the "place documents with cover sheets on scanner feeder" shown at 6 of figure 3A. Also refer to "recognizing...reading the machine-readable code markings of the cover sheet" mentioned in col. 3 lines 41-44) a control image on the control sheet within said imaging job (i.e., the "MRI" and "MRI (machine readable information)" included in the "cover page 1" as shown in figure 1 and mentioned in col. 4 line 22-28 function as the so called "a control image") wherein the control sheet could be located anywhere within the imaging job (see "cover page 1" shown in figure 1);

processing (i.e., the "analyze, recognize" shown at 20 of figure 3B. Also refer to "computer (CP)" shown in figure 2A and mentioned at col. 4 lines 32-37) control instructions (i.e., the "machine code" shown at 20 of figure 3B) from said control image (i.e., the "machine code" shown at 20 of figure 3B and the "MRI" mentioned in col. 4 lines 22-28 correspond to the so called "control instructions"); and

creating output in accordance with said control instructions (i.e., the "recording cover sheet info routing ID, config. parameter, etc." shown at 24 of figure 3B).

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Regarding claim 8, Schmid teaches a method for controlling scanning device using control sheets (i.e., the "MRI such as the bar-coded information" shown in figure and mentioned in col. 4 lines 22-28 functions as the so called "controlling scanning device using control sheets"), comprising the step of:

starting an imaging job having multiple sheets (i.e., the "start scanner" shown at 14 of figure 3A; "place stack in feeder" shown in figure 2A; and "preparing a stack of successive sheets...digitizing scanner" mentioned in col. 3 lines 34-41. Also refer to "beginning of the document scanning" mentioned in col. 3 lines 42-43), wherein at least one sheet is a control sheet (see "cover page 1" shown in figure 1);

locating (i.e., the "place documents with cover sheets on scanner feeder" shown at 6 of figure 3A. Also refer to "recognizing...reading the machine-readable code markings of the cover sheet" mentioned in col. 3 lines 41-44) a control image on the control sheet within said imaging job (i.e., the "MRI" and "MRI (machine readable information)" included in the "cover page 1" as shown in figure 1 and mentioned in col. 4 line 22-28 function as the so called "a control image") wherein the control sheet could be located anywhere within the imaging job (note the location of the "MRI" on the cover sheet 1 according to figure 1

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and the location of the "barcode" mentioned in col. 5 lines 60-63. Also refer to the "cover page 1" shown in figure 1);

creating output for said imaging job (i.e., the "recording cover sheet info routing ID, config. parameter, etc." shown at 24 of figure 3B); and

processing (i.e., the "analyze, recognize" shown at 20 of figure 3B) control instructions (i.e., the "machine code" shown at 20 of figure 3B) from said control image and using said control instruction for managing said output (i.e., the "set scanner parameters command: resolution, dither, mode, etc." shown at 23 of figure 3B).

Regarding claims 2, and 9, Schmid further teaches an image acquisition task (i.e., the "scanner" shown in figure 2C and mentioned in col. 3 lines 39-41 functions as the so called "an image acquisition task").

Regarding claims 3, and 11, Schmid further an image production task (i.e., the scanning document and storing document as a digitized document mentioned in col. 5 lines 35-38 functions as the so called "an image production task").

Regarding claims 4, and 12, Schmid further teaches a machine-readable format (i.e., the stack of pages shown in figure 1 contained printed information according to col. 2 lines 23-27 satisfies the so called "a machine-readable format").

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Regarding claims 5, and 13, Schmid further teaches wherein said control image is text (i.e., the "human readable information (HRI)" shown in figure 1, and "printed information" (i.e., handwritten) mentioned in col. 2 lines 23-28).

Regarding claims 6, and 14, Schmid further teaches wherein said control image is numbers (i.e., the "human readable information (HRI)" shown in figure 1, "MRI" shown in figure 4 (note the numbers printed below barcode), and "printed information" (i.e., handwritten) mentioned in col. 2 lines 23-28 satisfy the so called "numbers").

Regarding claims 7, and 15 Schmid further teaches wherein said method includes the steps of locating a second control image on the second control sheet (see figure 3A, item 12: append new documents cover sheets and place entire stack on the feeder. Note the "MRI" included in the this stack having new document cover sheet corresponds to the so called "second control image on the second control sheet". Also refer to "cover page 1'" shown in figure 1) and processing that control image (i.e., the "analyze, recognize machine code" shown at 20 of figure 3B).

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/11/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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In reply to applicant's remarks with regard to claims 1 and 8 that Schmid does not teach the features of: (1) "at least one sheet in the imaging job is a control sheet" and (2) "the control sheet can be located any where in the imaging job", the examiner disagrees. With regard to (1), Schmid clearly teaches these features. For example, the "cover page" (i.e., cover page 1 and cover page 1' shown in figure 1) includes "MRI" which is a bar-coded information...settings for the scanner S." as mentioned in col. 4 lines 22-28. Thus, Schmid's cover page corresponds to the so called "control sheet". In addition, Schmid does teach two cover pages (i.e., figure 1) which also meet the so called "at least one control sheets" as well. With regard to (2), the "cover pages" in Schmid are located at "cover page 1" and "cover page 1'" according to figure 1. Since the so called "located anywhere" is so broad and satisfied by the location of the cover pages in Schmid.

In reply to Applicant's remarks with regard to claims 2-3, 9, and 11 that Schmid can not teach that (1) "wherein the imaging job is an image acquisition task" and (2) "wherein the imaging job is an image production task", the examiner does not agree. With regard to (1), Schmid does teach these features. For example, the "digital scanning of documents comprising a plurality or stack of sheets or pages containing printed

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information" mentioned in col. 1 lines 11-13, and "feeding the cover sheet(s) and the stack of sheets into a digitizing scanner...beginning of the document scanning...routing information thereof" mentioned in col. 3 lines 41-45 satisfy the so called "imaging job is an image acquisition task". With regard to (2), Schmid does teach these features. For examples, "to scan a stack of sheets or pages and covert them to digitized images. This set of image page can then be viewed on a computer display" mentioned in col. 1 lines 42-44 clearly satisfies the so called "imaging job is an image production task".

In reply to Applicant's remarks with regard to claims 4-5, and 12-13, the examiner disagrees because Schmid does teach these features as clearly pointed in the claim rejection above. For example, Schmid does teach control image being located on a control sheet (see "MRI" included in "cover page" as shown in figure 1), where the control sheet is located any where in the imaging job (see rejection as applied to claim 1 above), control image be machine-readable code or text (see "MRI" shown in figure 1 and mentioned in col. 4 lines 22-28).

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this


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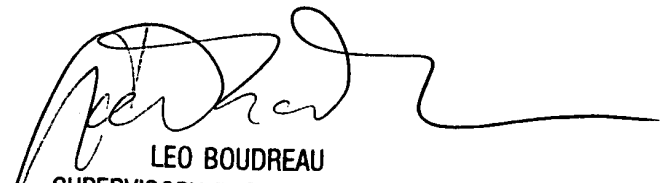
action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy M Dang whose telephone number is 703-305-1464. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 6:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo H Boudreau can be reached on 703-305-4706. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 all communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.


dmd
8/18/03


LEO BOUDREAU
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